

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 555 without my signature.

This bill would revise current eminent domain law and would require a public entity authorized to acquire property through eminent domain to give the holder of the conservation easement notification, an opportunity to participate in condemnation proceedings, and compensation for the property.

While protecting the value of conservation easements is a noble endeavor, this measure unintentionally provides opponents of controversial infrastructure projects another tool to impede or discourage vital public infrastructure planning and development in energy, water, and transportation which are crucial for our state's job growth and economic well-being.

For this reason, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger